and commercial traffic. The annual budget allotments in the Alleppey Sub-Division were not being fully spent, but were allowed to lapse. All public works in respect of roads, bridges, etc., should be immediately attended to and instructions issued to spend the whole of the allotments and to prevent lapse of sanctioned funds.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Jacob Oommen, the question of additional conveniences at Alleppey for crossing the canal is engaging the attention of the Public Works Department.

The question of completion of the Madayan *todu* is likewise engaging the attention of that department. I do not quite know what you mean by R. C. works.

MEMBER : Reinforced concrete works.

DEWAN: That is a matter which would cost a great deal of money and what can be done year by year is being considered by the Chief Engineer. I am sorry to hear that the roads of Alleppey are in an unsatisfactory condition. I can only repeat my reply of last year and add that I fail entirely to follow the sequence of thought which induces you to say that since the Muncipality does not look after the roads they should hand them over to the Public Works Department. That I thought was a compliment you were paying to the Public Works Department. But next you say that the P. W. D. maintain roads very unsatisfactorily. So it apparently means from the frying pan into the fire. I do not know which you want. The Alleppey Municipality consists of elected representatives. It is a form of self-government. Therefore, I have not the slighest doubt that the people's representatives will be the best authority in regard to serving the interests of the people.

141. Some Needs of the Kottayam town.

MR. MATHU MATTHEW (*Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam*) pointed ou that the Tirunakkara market was in the same condition as it was when opened fifty years ago. It was not large enough to accommodate the business during market days and much hardship was being experienced. There were no covered stalls and the market was miry during rains. Further, traffic along the adjoining roads during market days was very difficult because the market was held on the roads also. The need for increasing the area of the market had been brought to the notice of the Government ever since the foundation of the Assembly. The right of collecting the tolls from the market had been vested in the local Municipal Council which had already realised a sum of Rs. 50,000 therefrom without making any corresponding improvements in the market. The member therefore suggested the following suggestions for its improvement :—

(1) Drains should be constructed on both sides.

(2) Fifty per cent. of the revenue derived from the market should be spent for improvements.

(3) The market site should be extended.

(4) A joint inspection of the market should be conducted by the Sanitary Commissioner and the local Executive Engineer in view to suggesting to the Municipal Council the construction of an adequate number of suitable stalls and buildings.

The Tirunakkara *maidan* situated in the centre of the Kottayam town was the only open space of ground that could be used by the school-going children as playground and by the local police for drill. It was also used as a recreation ground by the merchants of the locality, which was crowded The wire fencing which originally enclosed the *maidan* had disappeared in places and carts laden with goods and motor cars were being freely parked there. At night it also served as urinal and latrine. An estimate for Rs. 6,000 for enclosing the *maidan* was once prepared and application was made to the Government for a grant of one-half of that amount. The then Dewan, Dewan Bahadur Mr. Raghaviah, had promised to give a grant. The Council could not

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undertake to meet the whole expenditure, because they were proposing, in view to relieve the congestion of traffic, to construct two roads parallel to the K. K. road, and also other branch roads. The grant already promised should therefore be sanctioned so that a compound wall for the *maidan* might be constructed at an early date.

The Tekkumgopura *kadavu* was constructed six years ago at a cost of Rs. 1,500. But the canal at the place was very narrow and shallow and therefore it did not fulfil the object with which it was constructed. The articles required for the use of the Tirunakkara temple were landed there. It was also very much used by the merchants for exporting and importing goods. The Cutcherry *kadavu* near by was always crowded with steam launches or motor boats used for passenger traffic and country boats laden with articles of merchandise. Frequently, it happened that boats arriving at Kottayam could not all be moored at the Cutcherry *kadavu* and had to be taken to the other landing place. But that was very inconvenient as the canal there was not deep and wide. It should therefore be widened by the acquisition of additional lands to a length of 50 feet and a breadth of 10 feet on either side and deepened.

The Vakattanam-Nalunakkal *todu* was very narrow and curved in its course and consequently it could not easily drain away the rain water collected in the *punja* lands on its banks. Further, that canal was very useful for taking pepper, tapioca and other produce to the Tirunakkara market and for taking the articles of daily necessity to the inhabitants residing on its banks. The need for widening and improving the canal had been brought to the notice of the Government from the year 1048 onwards. At the twenty-second session of the Assembly and at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in Karkatakam 1101, the same matter had been repeated. It was once again represented to the Dewan on the 18th Kanni 1102 by a deputation that waited on him at Kottayam. If the necessary lands on either side be acquired by the Government, the agriculturists of the locality were prepared to meet the cost of improving the canal. The work should be arranged to be taken up at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathu Matthew, the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Peishkar are of opinion that something must be done to improve the Tirunakkara market and the proposal in respect of it will be considered shortly.

Then we come to the question of a compound wall for the Tirunakkara *maidan*. I have not seen the late Dewan's inspection notes, dated the 7th November 1922, in which, I believe, he considered the question of assisting the Municipality in the matter concerning a wall or enclosure of some sort for the *maidan*. I understand the Municipality proposes addressing the Government for assistance in the matter; and when such a representation does come from the Municipality, Government will be prepared to consider it.

Then, as regards the improvement, by widening and deepening, of the Thekkumgopura *kadavu* that is a matter which will engage the attention of the Chief Engineer. The local officers do not consider that the widening and deepening of it is necessary. But the Chief Engineer has promised to look into the matter himself at his next inspection.

Then there is the Vakattanam-Nalunakkal *todu*. That too is a matter which the Chief Engineer will look into. In fact, it has been examined, and a preliminary estimate has been placed in the hands of the Chief Engineer.

142. Some Needs of the Kottayam town.

Mr. CHERIYAN K. VARGHESE (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam.*) spoke about the insufficiency of accommodation and of the dilapidated condition of the District Hospital at Kottayam. The hospital building was formerly the private residence of a European gentleman, acquired by the Government about half a century ago. Very little improvements were made since then to the buildings except the addition of the maternity ward with four beds, the operation room and the dispensary building. The sign-board put up at the hospital was blank and it would appear as though the surgeon in charge of the hospital was ashamed to have the board

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